CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of conducting electronic commerce transactions among participants in an E-marketplace, comprising the steps of:

obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant; and

sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information with any participants

interested in doing business with each other in the E-marketplace.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said privacy information comprises a P3P policy.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least the steps of:

requesting each participant to submit said digitally-signed privacy-use information

to the E-marketplace as part of a registration procedure for the

E-marketplace; and

storing all of said submitted digitally-signed privacy-use information by the

E-marketplace.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of obtaining digitally-signed

privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least the steps of:

requiring each participant to submit said digitally-signed privacy-use information

to the E-marketplace as part of a registration procedure for the

E-marketplace; and

storing all of said submitted digitally-signed privacy-use information by the

E-marketplace.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of sharing the digitally-signed

privacy-use information comprises at least the step of:

said E-marketplace making available all of said stored digitally-signed privacy-use

information to all participants upon request.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of sharing the digitally-signed

privacy-use information comprises at least the step of:

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said E-marketplace making available to participants in a particular transaction the

stored digitally-signed privacy-use information of all participants in said

particular transaction.

7. A computer program product recorded on computer-readable medium for

conducting electronic commerce transactions among participants in an E-marketplace,

comprising:

computer-readable means for obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information

for each participant; and

computer-readable means for sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information

with any participants interested in doing business with each other in the

E-marketplace.

8. The program product of claim 7, wherein said privacy information comprises

a P3P policy.

9. The program product of claim 7, wherein said computer-readable means for

obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least:

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computer-readable means for requesting each participant to submit said

    digitally-signed privacy-use information to the E-marketplace as part of a

    registration procedure for the E-marketplace; and

computer-readable means for storing all of said submitted digitally-signed

    privacy-use information by the E-marketplace.

10. The program product of claim 7, wherein said computer-readable means for

obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least:

    computer-readable means for requiring each participant to submit said

        digitally-signed privacy-use information to the E-marketplace as part of a

        registration procedure for the E-marketplace; and

    computer-readable means for storing all of said submitted digitally-signed

        privacy-use information by the E-marketplace.

11. The program product of claim 10, wherein said computer-readable means for

sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information comprises at least:

computer-readable means for making available by said E-marketplace all of said

stored digitally-signed privacy-use information to all participants upon

request.

12. The program product of claim 10, wherein said computer-readable means for

sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information comprises at least:

computer-readable means for making available to participants in a particular

transaction, by said E-marketplace, the stored digitally-signed privacy-use

information of all participants in said particular transaction.

13. A system for conducting electronic commerce transactions among participants

in an E-marketplace, comprising:

means for obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant;

and

means for sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information with any

participants interested in doing business with each other in the

E-marketplace.

14. The system of claim 7, wherein said privacy information comprises a P3P policy.

15. The system of claim 7, wherein said means for obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least:

    computer-readable means for requesting each participant to submit said digitally-signed privacy-use information to the E-marketplace as part of a registration procedure for the E-marketplace; and

    means for storing all of said submitted digitally-signed privacy-use information by the E-marketplace.

16. The system of claim 7, wherein said means for obtaining digitally-signed privacy-use information for each participant comprises at least:

    means for requiring each participant to submit said digitally-signed privacy-use information to the E-marketplace as part of a registration procedure for the E-marketplace; and

    means for storing all of said submitted digitally-signed privacy-use information by the E-marketplace.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein said means for sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information comprises at least:

means for making available by said E-marketplace all of said stored digitally-signed privacy-use information to all participants upon request.

18. The system of claim 10, wherein said means for sharing the digitally-signed privacy-use information comprises at least:

means for making available to participants in a particular transaction, by said E-marketplace, the stored digitally-signed privacy-use information of all participants in said particular transaction.